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58. (New) The IV catheter apparatus of claim 57, wherein the needle guard further comprises a needle guard proximal end, wherein the needle guard is secured to the needle tip when the needle is in the fully retracted position by a portion of the needle guard proximal end making contact with a needle crimp and the resilient portion blocking the needle tip.

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59. (New) The IV catheter apparatus of claim 57, further comprising a needle guard outer contact surface, and wherein the needle guard is secured to the catheter hub hollow cylinder by frictionally engaging the needle guard outer contact surface with the inner wall of the hollow cylinder; the needle guard is configured to separate from the hollow cylinder when the frictional engagement is removed.

**REMARKS**

Claims 50-59 have been added to further define applicant's invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added with the new claims, and that the new claims are supported by the disclosure. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments to the above-identified application be entered prior to initial examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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